IN THE SPECIFICATION

In the section "Background of the Invention," between paragraphs 0002 and 0003, please delete the following heading:

2.   Description of Background and Relevant Information

Between paragraphs 0003 and 0004, please add the following heading:

2. Description of Background and Relevant Information

Please amend paragraph 0004 as follows:

[0004]   Fastening The fastening devices can take various forms. They can be two series of teeth, each arranged on a strip in an offset manner to be engaged one in the other in order to lock the two strips, thereby constituting a fastener of the "zipper" type. They can also be two complementary continuous sections of the male-female type whose engagement or disengagement is controlled by the slider. In certain slide fasteners, the fastening means can be made in the form of two spiral elements that are connected to each of the strips and that are nested one in the other. All of these types of slide fasteners are well known to those persons skilled in the art.

Please <u>amend</u> paragraph 0019 as follows:

[0019] According to the invention, the blocking member 28 has a device to automatically retract and not to interfere with the passage of the slider 24 when the slider is moved in the <u>closing/locking</u> ~~opening/locking~~ direction, *i.e.*, from the position shown in FIG. 1 to the position shown in FIG. 2. In this case, this retracting device includes an edge 34 of the blocking member 28 which edge is inclined with respect to the longitudinal direction of the slide fastener, therefore with respect to the path of the slider 24. In the example shown, this edge 34 is shown to be curved inwardly and eventually meets the blocking edge 30. The joining of the two edges 34 and 30 edges forms a rounded right angle. The retracting edge 34 also extends across the path of the slider 24, but its inclination is such that, instead of causing a blocking of the slider, it forms a ramp such that the cooperation of the slider 24 with the blocking edge 30 tends to lift the blocking member 28 until it retracts from the path of the slider 24.